



International

LONGSHORE

and

WAREHOUSE

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LOCAL 19

August 17, 2012

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Dear Honorable City Council Members:

We wish to further apprise you of our position on the issues related to the proposed arena in the industrial SoDo district, and thank you for your continued detailed due diligence in examining the issues surrounding the impacts of this project in the SoDo area. As you are aware, the International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local #19 has taken the position that we are in favor of an NBA team returning to the Puget Sound Region, but that the SoDo site is inappropriate and that a facility should be located elsewhere if built. This position was taken by our membership at two regularly scheduled union membership meetings.

To say that this issue has been divisive in many communities would be an understatement. We feel that much of this can be attributed to the manner in which this proposal was developed and subsequently presented. Multiple stakeholders, including ILWU Local #19 and others in the maritime trades, were not included in these early discussions or even made aware of them, even though the downside impacts of an arena in SoDo are significant. We cannot change the past, but the only hope in truly understanding the impacts, and whether or not impacts can be mitigated under the current geographical, financial, and political constraints, is through the SEPA process, which would include an EIS. Moving forward with any agreement without the completion of this process would mean that any evaluation of impacts and mitigation would be largely symbolic. Approval of the binding contract with ArenaCo ("MOU") without SEPA would cast in stone the current divisiveness on the issues, create many barriers to actually fulfilling the desire to build an arena by any party, and create a perception to the public that our government does not conduct an open process on matters of funding projects with public credit. In our view, the only way to remedy the problems that have been created by the process in which this arena proposal was developed, is to fully evaluate the concerns of all stakeholders through the SEPA process before taking any action on an MOU with Mr. Hansen and ArenaCo.

The reports released by the Port earlier this month, which document the traffic, economic and land use impacts, have underscored our concerns in a rational and detailed manner. In particular, we urge you to examine the report released by the Port concerning the land use impacts noted by Peter Steinbreuck. His report demonstrates to us that the decision to build an arena in SoDo is not about the NBA, but is about the will to preserve Seattle's industrial and trade land base, and by extension, our economy based on these. We also read with great interest the recent report by the Seattle Planning Commission, which stated that job impacts needed to be studied before the City entered into any agreement. SoDo is Seattle's workshop and it should remain that way; if this is lost, it is gone forever.

In addition, we would like to call you attention to the 2006 ***Case Study of the Intermodal Issues Facing The Puget Sound Region and The Port of Seattle*** (see attachments via e-mail), which details the intermodal system state wide, intermodal transport system is not merely a supply chain from point A to point B, but a vast network of many intermodal chains that are interdependent of one another, and on the whole susceptible to interruptions from any of its constituent parts. As you may be aware, 70% of the cargo that moves through Seattle is discretionary and can be rerouted through other ports. When space is at a premium, terminal operators can only compete through freight volume. We urge you to review this additional document in your research on the impacts of the arena proposal.

We would also like to note that there have been media reports concerning the current negotiations between the Port of Seattle and the terminal operators at Pier 46. Spokespeople for the shipping companies have noted publicly that the arena proposal is a factor in the talks to renew this lease. Your decision may determine the outcome of these negotiations.

Finally, we would like to emphasize that alternate siting for an arena is an ideal solution, which would be explored through the SEPA process. Alternate sites might include: Key Arena, Memorial Stadium, the Sabey property in Tukwila. The Sick's Stadium (Lowe's) site on Rainier Avenue S., sites in Bellevue and Renton, and the parcel offered by the Muckleshoot Tribe in 2007 when NBA was leaving Seattle. In an alternate location, we would not have to trade jobs in hand for jobs in theory, we would be able to provide employment in the Building Trades and Hospitality Industry without impacting Maritime and Industrial Jobs; the civic and community benefits would be portable to an alternate location; and the civic pride can be had through a regional solution as well as a Seattle-centric one.

We urge you each to set aside any implementation or approval of the MOU without a full SEPA and EIS process.

Sincerely,

ILWU LOCAL #19



Cam Williams
President

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